

with the ability of IL-15 to transduce a signal through the IL-15 receptor complex, wherein said antagonist is capable of binding to said IL-15 receptor complex.

Claim 35. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 26 wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of PEG, mPEG, PVP, dextran, PVA, poly amino acids, albumin, and gelatin.

Claim 36. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 35 wherein the chemical group is selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, and dextran.

Claim 37. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 36 wherein the chemical group is PEG having a molecular weight of between about 1,000 and about 20,000.

Claim 38. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 28 wherein the IL-15 is covalently bonded to PEG having a molecular weight of between about 1,000 and about 20,000.

Claim 40. (Amended) The antagonist of claim 37 wherein the PEG has a molecular weight of about 5,000.

#### REMARKS

##### ▪ **Amendment**

This amendment does not introduce any new matter. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3; and page 11 lines 2 to 27.

##### ▪ **Status of the claims**

- Claims pending: 26-63.
- Claims withdrawn by the Examiner: 30-34, 39, 42, 45 and 47-63.
- Claims rejected: 26-29, 35-38, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 46.

##### ▪ **Reply to the Office Action**

###### ▪ Restriction Requirement

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's maintaining and making Final the Restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement, or at least to rejoin Group I and Group II if the requirement is not withdrawn. According to MPEP 808, every restriction requirement must have (1) the reasons as to why the invention as claimed are either independent or distinct (emphasis original), as distinguished from the mere statement of conclusion, and (2) the reasons for insisting restriction as set forth in MPEP 808.01 (independent inventions), MPEP 808.01(a) (species), and 808.02 (related inventions). The invention as presently claimed relates to an antagonist of IL-15 comprising IL-15 or a mutein